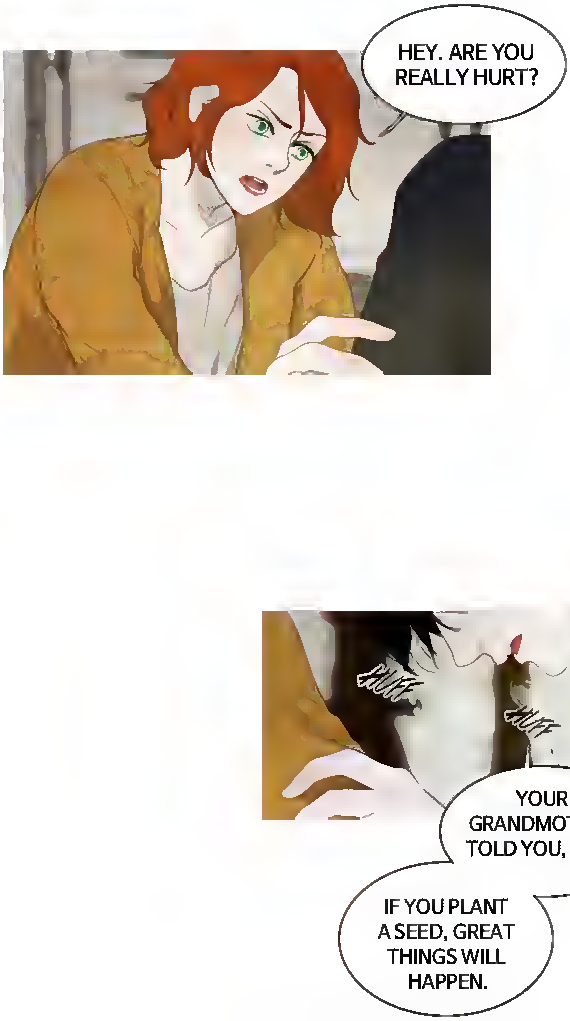
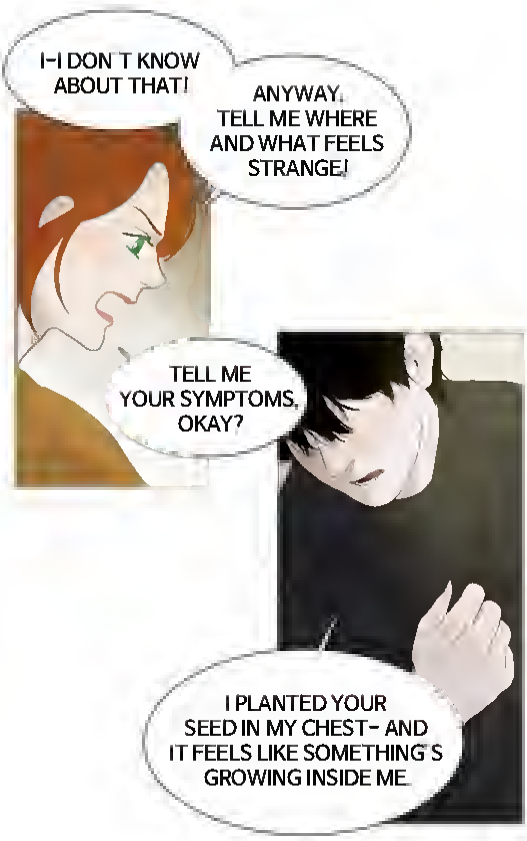
I...
I THINK
I FEEL PAIN.
IT HURTS...


HEY. ARE YOU REALLY HURT?
HUFF
HUFF
YOUR GRANDMOTHER TOLD YOU, JANE.
IF YOU PLANT A SEED, GREAT THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

TELL ME, JANE.
I FEEL SO STRANGE RIGHT NOW.


I-I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!
ANYWAY, TELL ME WHERE AND WHAT FEELS STRANGE!
TELL ME YOUR SYMPTOMS, OKAY?
I PLANTED YOUR SEED IN MY CHEST- AND IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S GROWING INSIDE ME.

...YOU PLANTED WHAT WHERE?
L-LIFT UP YOUR SHIRT!

SSK.
-...

HERE...
I PUT THE SEED
IN HERE..

ARE YOU
NUTS?!!

Winter Woods

HEL-
SHOUT
SARA! THERE'S A PROBLEM!
WHAT IS IT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
CAN YOU COME OVER HERE? WINTER'S ACTING KIND OF WEIRD.
HE SAYS HE'S IN PAIN! LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING GROWING INSIDE HIM!!

HE SAID HE PLANTED MY SEED INSIDE HIMSELF BUT I GUESS NOW IT'S MAKING HIM SICK!!

WHAT? HE PLANTED A SEED INSIDE HIMSELF?
YOU MEAN LIKE UNDER HIS SKIN?
THIS REALLY IS TROUBLE

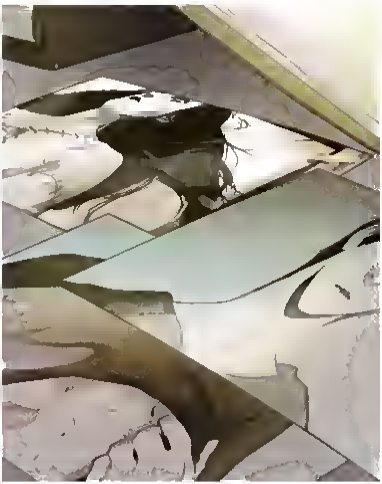
YEAH!
I THINK HE OPENED ONE OF HIS SCARS AND PUT IT INSIDE!
I TRIED TO TAKE IT OUT, BUT THE WOUND WAS ALL HEALED!
WHAT SHOULD I DO, SARA??
CAN YOU GIVE HIM SURGERY AND TAKE IT OUT?
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM?

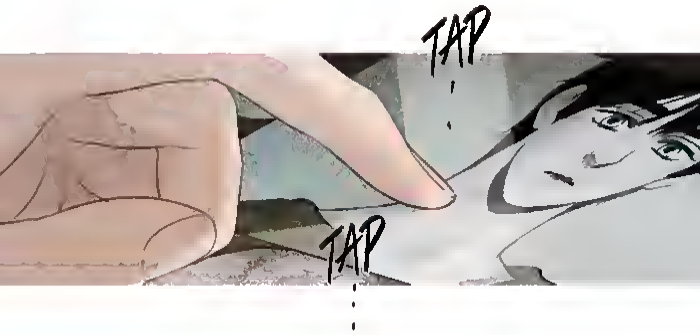
HM - THIS IS TRICKY.
WELL, WE'D BETTER TRY AND TAKE IT OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IF IT LOOKS RED AND SWOLLEN, OR LIKE THERE MIGHT BE AN INFECTION, DISINFECT THE WOUND RIGHT AWAY.
IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY MEASURE, BUT IT'S STILL BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING.

T-THANKFULLY, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT YET. IT'S LIKE IT'S JUST HEALING ITSELF.
GOOD. WELL THEN I'LL CALL A MEDICAL DOCTOR FRIEND AND ASK ABOUT IT IN MORE DETAIL,
SO SEND ME A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE AREA WITH THE WOUND.

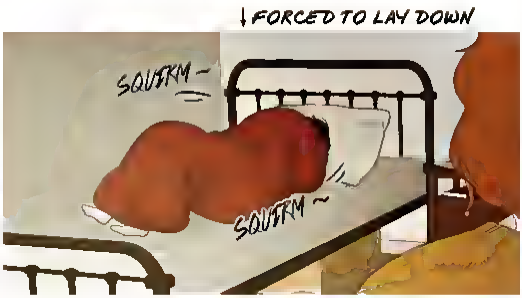
OKAY, I'LL SEND IT RIGHT AWAY!
HE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
ON THE INTERNET NEWS, YOU SOMETIMES SEE STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE EATING A PIECE OF FRUIT AND IT GROWS IN THEIR STOMACH...
WHERE'D YOU SEE THAT? THIS ISN'T THAT SERIOUS YET.
FOR NOW, LET'S JUST HANG UP.
I'LL FINISH UP WORK HERE AS QUICKLY AS I CAN AND HEAD OVER THERE.

O-OKAY...
PLEASE HURRY!
ALRIGHT.



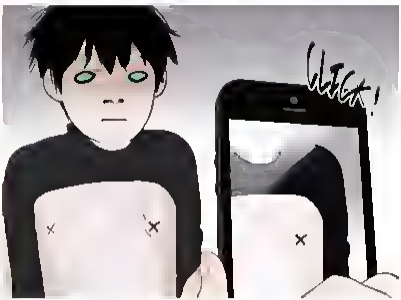

TAP
TAP

JUST KEEP IT UP, JANE.


FORCED TO LAY DOWN
SQUIRM~
SQUIRM~

WINTER!
WHOOSH
LET ME SEE THAT WOUND AGAIN.
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
STAY STILL!
I'VE GOT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE WOUND!

SMACK!!
I SAID STAY STILL!


UGH!

SENDING...

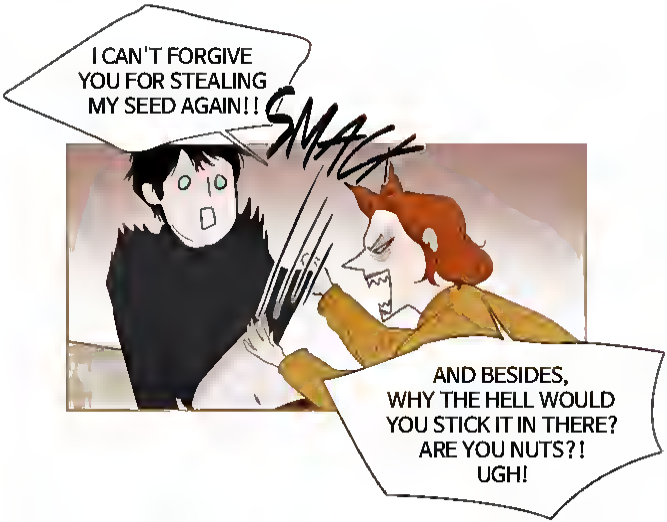
WINTER.
POKE
DOES THIS HURT?
SHAKE SHAKE
N-NO.
HM_
MAYBE HE'S OKAY, LIKE SARA SAID.
NOTHING'S GOING TO GROW INSIDE HIM...

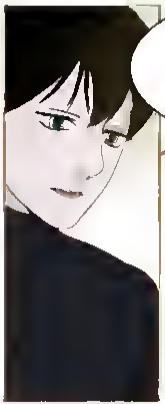
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
LOOK! HIS HEARTBEAT SOUNDS COMPLETELY NORMAL!
YOU FEEL COMPLETELY FINE, RIGHT?

I'M OKAY, JANE.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME? LIKE ROY?
OF COURSE I AM! IT COULD BE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH OF ONE PERSON!

A PERSON..

BUT THEN AGAIN..!!


I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU FOR STEALING MY SEED AGAIN!!
SMACK
AND BESIDES, WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU STICK IT IN THERE? ARE YOU NUTS?! UGH!


YOU SAID
THAT SEED WAS
PRECIOUS TO YOU.

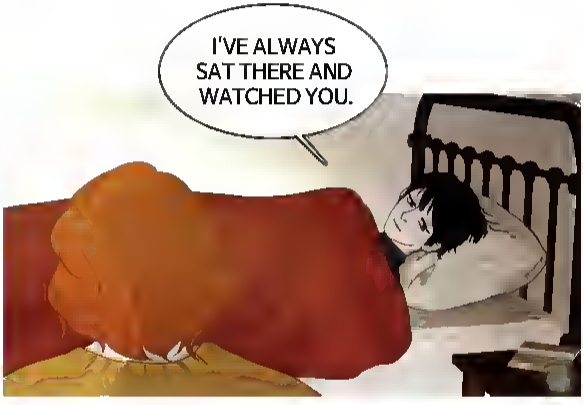
I THOUGHT THAT
IF I HAD THE SEED,
I WOULD BECOME PRECIOUS
TO YOU TOO.

SILLY-
THINK ABOUT IT. IF I CARRY ROY AROUND IN MY POCKET, DOES THAT MAKE ME ROY?
SHAKE
SHAKE
EXACTLY, AND YOU'RE NOT THAT SEED EITHER! GOT IT?

...THEN HOW CAN I BECOME SOMETHING PRECIOUS TO YOU?
I-I DON'T KNOW!!!
SARA SAID SHE'S COMING, SO JUST SIT DOWN AND WAIT UNTIL SHE GETS HERE!!

JANE.
WHAT NOW~

WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE LAYING DOWN.


I'VE ALWAYS
SAT THERE AND
WATCHED YOU.

YOUR FACE IN THAT LIGHT ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE IT WAS SMILING.
IT WAS LIKE YOU WERE TALKING TO ME WITH YOUR SMILE.
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE SAYING, AND IT WAS THE KIND OF WORDS THAT I HAD TO JUST INTERPRET FOR MYSELF.

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK I WAS SAYING?

I THINK YOU WERE SAYING "SAY MY NAME."
"THEN IT'LL ALL BE OKAY."

EVER SINCE I WAS FIRST CREATED,
I'VE ALWAYS FELT A BIT OF WARM LIQUID
FLOWING THROUGH MY BODY.

WHEN I CAME TO YOUR HOUSE,
THAT LIQUID SUDDENLY ROSE UP AND
FILLED UP TO MY NECK.

SO I WANTED TO SHOUT OUT SOMETHING AND SPIT IT OUT, BUT I WASN'T SURE WHAT I SHOULD SAY.
THEN SUDDENLY, YOU SPOKE TO ME.

TALK
TO
ME

SO I CALLED
YOUR NAME.

EVERY NIGHT,
WHEN YOU CLOSED
YOUR EYES, I CALLED
YOUR NAME.

DEEP WITHIN MY HEART.

WITH MY LUNGS.

AND WITH MY HEAD.

AFTER I CALLED YOUR NAME, IT FELT LIKE THAT OVERFLOWING LIQUID WENT DOWN A LITTLE BIT.
BUT IT JUST KEEPS COMING BACK AND FILLING ME UP AGAIN.
SO I JUST HAD TO KEEP CALLING YOUR NAME.
I THINK I KNOW THAT FEELING.
IT'S LIKE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU POUR IT OUT, IT NEVER GETS EMPTY.
LIKE WHAT I FELT FOR THAT GUY AGES AGO IN UNIVERSITY...

AND THEN, I REMEMBERED THAT QUESTION THAT YOU ASKED ME BEFORE.
AH... J-JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT QUESTION. I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.

SSK
I HAVE TO LOOK AT YOU,
AND KEEP CALLING YOUR NAME-

DOES THAT MEAN I LIKE YOU?

HAH... HA! HA! HA!
FEELINGS DON'T USUALLY FOLLOW WHAT THE MIND WANTS, BUT...
I-I'M NOT SURE EITHER.
I WISH YOU WOULD THINK OF ME AS SOMETHING PRECIOUS TOO. LIKE A SEED IN YOUR HEART.
I WISH YOU WOULD KEEP CALLING ME BECAUSE YOU THINK OF ME AS PRECIOUS.

WHAT' RE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
I...

I THINK YOU'RE REALLY PRECIOUS TO ME, JANE.

Winter Woods

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